

QUARTERLY

Third Quarter 2011



A publication for Gift of Adoption Investor Board members. Please pass along to others who may be interested in this cause. Send comments and feedback to pdevereux@giftofadoption.org

1 2 3 4 news

Gift of Adoption is a national charitable organization that inspires adoption by providing grants to qualified parents – giving children who need families a permanent home and a chance to thrive.

Dear Investor Board Members,

This quarter's guest perspective is provided by Gift of Adoption Investor Board Member Tim Swett

Money can't buy love.

If money could buy love then the billions spent each year to house orphans in orphanages or foster care would not have such disastrous results. But it does. If money could buy love, then 88% of the children who are raised in foster care would not become mentally ill by their early 20's. But they do. If money could buy love, then more than a third of the same children would not end up homeless as adults. But they do. And if money could buy love, then third a would not turn to crime. But they do.

I support Gift of Adoption because I believe that nothing is more important to a child than the love of a parent. It turns out that this belief is more than just a theory. Every study I have ever read on the subject confirms that belief. But we don't need a mountain of evidence to tell us something we already know in our hearts is true. Tragically, every year this is proven all over again as millions of children age-out of orphanages and foster homes. Orphanages and foster care are not permanent solutions for orphaned children, and yet, most children's charities do not even recognize adoption as a cause, choosing instead to treat symptoms. It's outrageous!

But the good news is that you don't have to adopt a child yourself to get a
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Elizabeth, Max, and Zoe

Elizabeth (5), Max (2), and Zoe (1) are biological siblings who were placed

for adoption when their birth mother terminated her parental rights last fall. Prior to terminating her rights, she had worked with an adoption agency to

find adoptive parents for her children. When the family who planned to adopt the children was not able to continue, Rachel and Elias stepped in. Even though they were unsure of where they would find the final funding, they moved forward quickly so the children would not be at risk of being separated in foster care.

Rachel shares, "The agency told us that the other family wasn't able to continue but

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** joined this quarter*

child adopted. Think of it like this. On one side of a great big wall is a group of orphaned children, desperate for a chance to experience the love of a permanent family. On the other side of that same barrier are adults, who have spent months jumping through legal and administrative hoops to qualify as adoptive parents. Thousands of children remain un-adopted due to its cost. Many adults, like the hundreds who apply for Gift of Adoption grants, have scrimped and scrapped and saved and then maxed out credit cards to try and make the adoption happen, but still come up short. All that needs to happen is for somebody to come along and tear down that barrier. That somebody is us, working through Gift of Adoption.

And how do we tear down that barrier? It's simple really; we eliminate the financial barrier with our adoption assistance grants.

Last year, GOA tore down that barrier for 105 children. Now those children's lives have been transformed. Literally every aspect of their lives will be better from education to health care. Not to mention that they will now have someone to tuck them in at night. Unfortunately, those kids are the lucky few. But through our continued support, we can help grow adoption into a recognized cause. We can spread the word: you don't have to adopt to help a kid get adopted!

As a registered investment advisor and as a head of a private equity firm, I know a good investment when I see one. (Truth be told, I've made plenty of bad investments in my career, but investing in Gift of Adoption is not one of them.) Consider that keeping a kid in foster care costs \$27,000 a year (on average). That annual burden is less than what it would cost to get a child permanently adopted. That's right, for a few thousand dollars of support ONCE, we can save society \$27,000 ANNUALLY. But that savings is just the tip of the iceberg. An adopted child is much less likely to end up in prison or in other ways be a financial burden to society. So the savings extend well into adulthood. The point is

that supporting the Gift of Adoption Fund is an investment with a return measured in the 100's or 1000's of percent. I challenge anyone to come up with a better investment, charitable or otherwise.

Obviously, I am proud to be an Investor Board member of GOA. Few things I do are so firmly grounded in logic (and passion). The only thing illogical about it is that there are not more of us. I realize I am preaching to the choir so I challenge you to think of somebody who might also have the means to join

the choir. Invite them to listen. Invite them to help GOA, too. The only thing more gratifying than tearing down that barrier separating parents and kids, is having someone accept your invitation to help you tear it down. Money can't buy love, but our support of Gift of Adoption does allow kids to get the love they desperately need. So let's tear down some walls together. *And let's spread the word, you don't have to adopt to help a child get adopted!*

Tim Swett

CHALLENGE GRANT

In December 2010, Gift of Adoption was the recipient of a \$10,000 challenge grant from the Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation. The purpose of the challenge grant was to inspire four new members to Gift of Adoption's Investor Board prior to January 14, 2011.

We are pleased to announce that during this time period we welcomed

five new members to the Investor Board, and as a result of the match, each of these new members will have the gratification of a GOA adoption grant awarded in their name.

Thanks to the Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation for their tremendous support of and belief in the Investor Board and Gift of Adoption mission.

Elizabeth, Max, and Zoe

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the mother's rights had already been terminated. The kids were staying with volunteers. They had no family. At this point knowing that these kids would likely have to go into foster care and be separated we immediately said 'YES'.

Rachel and Elias' decision to adopt came naturally. Rachel had gone on many mission trips to orphanages growing up and always had a heart for orphans. "We know there are so many children out there in the world who just want to be part of a family and don't have the same advantages in life as our two biological children. We are so passionate about adoption and there are way too many kids out there who need homes."



With the help of a Gift of Adoption grant generously funded by Networked Insights of Madison, WI as part of their corporate holiday giving in honor of their clients, these three young children will spend the rest of their lives knowing the joy of a loving family and the stability of a permanent home.